Dear Parents and Families:

A MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN OF STUDENTS

One of the things I love about our Union College community is how we come together to effect change and make a difference. This determination was evident when our national championship men’s hockey team united with other groups, including the new student-led Committee on Consent Education and Awareness, to speak up against sexual assault and gender violence.

They and a host of student leaders signed the “It’s On Us” pledge, a White House
initiative to identify and diffuse situations in which assaults could happen on college campuses. Lt. Gov. Robert J. Duffy joined President Stephen C. Ainlay at the Nott Memorial as students issued the challenge. The pledge calls for recognizing that non-consensual sex is an assault and to intervene in situations in which consent hasn’t been or cannot be given.

While our campus is a safe one, the incidence of sexual assault on campuses big and small is a sobering reality. In recognition of this, we are also expanding our existing Bystander Intervention Program, which trains student leaders to intervene in potentially harmful situations of sexual harassment or violence.

The Committee on Consent Education and Awareness includes Shayna Han ’15, Sydney Giller ’16, Kyra DeTone ’16 and Antonia Batha ’17. They recently hosted a Sexual Assault Awareness Week featuring a self-defense workshop, dinners, discussions, film screenings and the annual “Walk a Mile in Her Shoes” event. To learn more about Union’s policies on sexual assault, click here.

All of these activities offer us the opportunity to work together this year with a renewed commitment to making our campus safer for all.

Stephen C. Leavitt  
Vice President for Student Affairs and Dean of Students

HOMECOMING and FAMILY WEEKEND

Join us Oct. 24-26

Here are a few activities you won’t want to miss this Homecoming and Family Weekend.

Friday, Oct. 24:

- **Visit-a-Class Day.** See our faculty in action. You'll find a class schedule at the Welcome Center in Reamer Campus Center and in your registration packets.
- **Professional dance.** The Stephanie C. Davis Dance Residency welcomes the internationally acclaimed Kun-Yang Lin/Dancers, a company that blends Eastern and Western contemporary styles. At 8 p.m., the company performs at The Egg theater in Albany. A limited number of half-price tickets ($14) are available for parents and family members through the College Relations Office. Union students are free. Contact Jackie Cavalier at (518) 388-6165. Complimentary bus transportation to and from The Egg is also available.
Saturday, Oct. 25:

- Becker Career Center Open House, 9 a.m.-noon.
- Family Portraits (and continental breakfast), 10 a.m.-12:30 p.m., Abbe Hall (1128 Lenox Road, one block from campus). Have your photos taken courtesy of the College. To reserve a time, contact Jennifer Tys at (518) 388-6175 ortysj@union.edu.
- Family Picnic and Tailgate, 11:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m., Bailey Field. Enjoy a live band, food, face painting, bouncey rides and more.
- First-Year Parents Reception, 4:30 p.m. Wold Atrium. Meet others who are new to the Union family, and hear from faculty and staff who work directly with your students. Light fare; RSVP encouraged but all are welcome.

Get Homecoming details and register for events here. And please share your #NottShot during Homecoming on Instagram or Twitter. It'll automatically be entered into our online gallery here: http://www.union.edu/nott-shot/

NEWS FROM BECKER CAREER CENTER

Making the most of winter break

The Becker Career Center is available to help students strategize how to effectively use their time during winter break to gain experience related to their career objectives. Students are encouraged to job shadow, secure an internship (paid or unpaid) and begin or continue to network with Union College alumni and employers. Employers prefer to hire students who have relevant work or internship experience. Encourage your son or daughter to make an appointment with a Becker career advisor to determine how they can gain valuable experiences over the break and become competitive candidates for post-graduate employment.

FROM DINING SERVICES

A taste of Poland

Beets, potato pancakes, salmon with leek sauce, pierogies – these are just some of the good food your students enjoyed when Michal Konwerski, Chef de Partie at the National Stadium in Warsaw, visited campus to share some of his country’s classic dishes in the dining halls and at Ozone Café. The visit is part of a month-long international chef residency.

FROM FINANCIAL AID

Tax return transcripts
Parents and students who filed 2013 federal tax extensions and are filing in October, please remember to request your 2013 federal tax return transcripts and submit this information to our office as soon as it is available. Has your student granted you access to WebAdvising? All financial aid information and student billing is communicated through WebAdvising. Please ask your student to grant you access if they have not already done so, directions are on our website. Please contact the Financial Aid Office at (518) 388-6123 or finaid@union.edu if you have questions.

FROM GREEK LIFE

New members added

The Greek community added 299 students this term, including 132 men and 167 women. All new member education should be completed by Nov. 12.

FROM HEALTH SERVICES

Ebola monitoring

Although the risk to Union community is very low, the Wellness Center continues to monitor the Ebola outbreak in West Africa and the recent Dallas cases. The virus is transmitted to individuals who have been in direct contact with the blood or bodily fluids of an infected patient or objects that have been in contact with infected secretions. It cannot be transmitted through the air, food or water. “We are closely following recommendations made by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) as well as the American College Health Association,” says Health Center Director Angela Stefanatos. “At this time, we are not aware of any students traveling to or from the affected countries.”

FROM INTERNATIONAL PROGRAMS

Packing it in abroad

Are you and your student planning for his or her winter term abroad? When packing, keep in mind that two weeks of clothing should be sufficient for a full-term abroad. Some things to take:

- Comfortable shoes good for walking on all kinds of surfaces
- Lightweight and easy-to-layer clothes that adapt to the weather
- One outfit for special occasions
- Travel-size set of toiletries
- Aids for homesickness (load pictures of your friends and family on your laptop or tablet)
FROM RESIDENTIAL LIFE

Supporting your student

From pancake breakfasts, cookouts and movie nights, to a Schenectady Greenmarket walk and even an ice cream social with members of Campus Safety, your students have been busy. They’re also busy with academic stresses – which can impact even the best of living situations. “We’re now in midterm mode, a time when roommate conflicts can bubble to the surface,” says Residence Life Director Amanda Bingel. “If your student is calling you with roommate concerns, please encourage him or her to speak with one of our professional Residence Directors. Sometimes, a chat with staff can help diffuse an anxiety-filled situation.”

DATES & DEADLINES

- Oct. 13-31: Academic advising for winter term courses
- Oct. 24-26: Homecoming and Family Weekend
- Nov. 18: Fall term classes end
- Nov. 20-25: Fall term final exam period
- Nov. 26: Residence hall and houses close
- Jan. 4: Residence halls and houses open
- Jan. 5: Winter term classes begin

STAY CONNECTED

- Visit our Parents & Families website
- Become a fan of our Facebook page
- Follow President Ainlay on Facebook
- Join the conversation on Twitter
- Follow Union sports
- Find Union events in your region
- Order Union gear
- See what's happening on campus
- Visit News & Events
- Check out our YouTube

October Challenge
Please consider supporting the Annual Fund during the month of October, when your gift will have a greater impact. If you are a new donor, your gift will be matched 3:1. If you increase your gift from last year, the increase will be matched 2:1. Gifts of continued support will be matched 1:1. Visit our Challenge website to